

STAT

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/03/25 : CIA-RDP88G00186R000400390056-9

Page Denied

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/03/25 : CIA-RDP88G00186R000400390056-9

ACTIVITIES OF THE ADULT LITERACY INITIATIVE

PURPOSE:

To work with literacy efforts in all offices within the Department, other Departments and agencies, and national groups from the private sector, service, church and volunteer organizations. To promote public/private sector partnerships in literacy. To promote awareness and advocacy with the general public. To advise the Secretary. To represent the Secretary at national meetings and conferences. To plan and conduct national meetings to encourage networking, coordination and new interest in literacy.

TO GET PEOPLE AT ALL LEVELS AND IN ALL SECTORS WORKING TOGETHER ON A VARIETY OF SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM AND TO STIMULATE NEW INTEREST AND RESOURCES.

ACTIVITIES

In conjunction with the Division of Adult Education Services, work closely with the Adult Education community and leadership.

In cooperation with the Coalition for Literacy, promote national public awareness.

Conduct, through NIE contract, the National Adult Literacy Project to study and disseminate information about successful programs and practices.

Conduct, with Adult Education and the National Diffusion Network, a satellite teleconference on literacy (to about 10,000 viewers in 38 states).

Promote the utilization of work-study students in literacy programs. Through the Office of Post-Secondary Education, fund pilot projects. Through the National Association of Student Employment Officers and a literacy expert, develop a manual of successful strategies for the use of work-study students. Recruit other colleges and universities to use existing work-study funds for literacy.

Once regional planning is complete, begin the active recruitment of Federal employee volunteers (to perform widely varying roles) and Federal office space for local literacy programs. Work with the Federal Interagency Committee on Education and its literacy sub-committee to recruit volunteers and to recognize exemplary volunteer efforts.

To encourage the development of new literacy technology which is adaptable and technically sound.

To conduct, through the National Assessment of Educational Progress, a Young Adult Literacy Assessment in the Spring of 1985.

In cooperation with the Business Council for Effective Literacy, promote public/private sector partnerships for literacy.

Institute an electronic mail/telecommunications system called LitNet for the purpose of sharing information about such things as funding sources, program models, advocacy strategies, and technical information and to provide a vehicle for on-line communications between literacy groups.

In cooperation with the National Institute for Handicapped Research and in consultation with 22 national associations and organizations, conduct a conference on networking for the improvement of literacy services for disabled populations. The purposes are: (1) to create a national network concerning literacy among the various special population groups; (2) to display examples of on-going successes in the area of literacy training for special populations; and (3) to discuss networking at the local level.

To convene an interagency team to focus on the unique problems and programs for Native Americans, Hispanic, Asian-American and other minority language groups.

To work cooperatively with the National Assault on Illiteracy Program as they organize State and local groups to address the promotion of literacy for Black Americans.

To work with Governors as they personally join in the promotion of literacy activities in their States.

To encourage media attention to the problem of adult functional illiteracy and publicize information on behalf of the Secretary. Attention has been devoted to literacy in Nation's Business, the New York Times, Business Week, Work America, Westinghouse Broadcasting, Good Morning America, ABC News, CBS News, All Things Considered, Voice of America, CBS Radio, the Black news networks, the Black Monitor, American Education, the Wall Street Journal, among others.

To focus the attention and resources of the Department and other Departments on literacy as an integral part of their legislatively-mandated education and training activities.

To meet with service groups, volunteer organizations, business and industry to encourage direct involvement with literacy activities. For example, the American Legion will encourage such involvement by the 16,000 local Posts and 12,000 local Auxilliary Units. The Appalachian Regional Commission is planning a major focus on literacy. The Volunteers of America are developing literacy programs in several cities.

To work with National groups to promote literacy services for aging citizens and the involvement of older persons as resources.

To work with Head Start to assess the need and resources available to Head Start parents.

To explore the application of technology for disabilities to the promotion of literacy.

To encourage involvement by the private school and college students, parents and faculties in literacy activities.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/03/25 : CIA-RDP88G00186R000400390056-9

- Volunteer your time to a literacy program
- Give money to a local effort
- Organize a literacy program
- Advocate in your community for literacy services
- Include basic skills training in your business training program
- Become a work-study literacy worker if you are a student
- Release employees to help in literacy programs
- Provide resources, publicity or recognition to your local literacy program



POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
20 10c



ADULT LITERACY INITIATIVE

For information on the initiative, contact
Diane Welch Vines, Director
Adult Literacy Initiative
U.S. Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202
(202) 472-9020

For information about literacy, write the
Clearinghouse on Adult Education
Washington, D.C. 20202

For information about local programs,
call (800) 228-8813

Adult Literacy Initiative
U.S. Department of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202

LITERACY
... The Key to
Opportunity

THE NEED

At least 23-27 million Americans — or one in five — are functionally illiterate. . . unable to fill out a job application, understand instructions on a medicine bottle, pass a written driver's test.

THE IMPACT

Literacy is a right and an obligation of every citizen. It impacts on our national security, our international competitiveness, our productivity, our democratic freedoms and our commitment to the right of all citizens to achieve their full potential. In other words, we pay a high individual and societal cost. Literacy skills in reading, writing and computation are critical, both now and in the future.

THE RESPONSE

The Adult Literacy Initiative

Coordinates Federal literacy activities

Promotes awareness, voluntarism, and the recruitment of new service groups

Collaborates with and builds on all existing efforts

INITIATIVE ACTIVITIES

Cooperation with

- Federally-funded State Adult Education Programs
- Volunteer Literacy Programs
- Business/Industry/Unions
- Service Organizations
- Religious Groups

Cooperation with the Coalition for Literacy in a NATIONAL AWARENESS Campaign calling for volunteers and funds (with an 800 number and computer database of Local Programs)

Participation in the NATIONAL ADULT LITERACY PROJECT funded through contract by the National Institute of Education to the Far West Lab.

Involvement of COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS through

- The College Work-Study Program
- For-credit Courses
- Voluntarism

NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

- LitNet Electronic Mail and Teleconferencing System
- National Meetings and Conferences
- For Disabled Out-of-school Youth and Adults
- For Minority Populations

Active recruitment of Federal Employee volunteers and office space through the FEDERAL EMPLOYEE LITERACY TRAINING PROGRAM (F.E.L.T.)

Encouragement of PUBLIC/PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS AND STATE LITERACY INITIATIVES

Stimulation of increased VOLUNTARISM and the involvement of groups new to the literacy effort

Promotion of young adult literacy assessments and Multi-Technology Capacity for Literacy

"It will take a united effort by all our people to achieve our goal: The elimination of adult functional illiteracy in the United States.

In this decade, America faces serious challenges on many fronts: to our national security, our economic prosperity, and our ability to compete in the international marketplace. If we're to renew our economy, protect our freedom, we must sharpen the skills of every American mind and enlarge the potential of every individual American life. Unfortunately, the hidden problem of adult illiteracy holds back too many of our citizens, and as a nation, we, too, pay a price.

Let us today resolve to roll up our sleeves and get to work, because there's very much to be done. Across this great land, let those of us who can read teach those of us who cannot. Let the lights burn late in our classrooms, our church basements, our libraries and around our kitchen tables, wherever we can gather to help others help themselves to the American dream."

President Ronald Reagan
September 7, 1983
The White House

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE LITERACY TRAINING PROGRAM
LAUNCHING CEREMONY

DECEMBER 10, 1984

REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and return to registration desk.

MR.
MRS.
MISS
MS.
DR.:

TITLE:

ORGANIZATION:

MAILING
ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE
NUMBER:

☐

Please check if you are your Agency's contact person for
FELT.